(b) and (c) Two meetings of the Samiti have been held on 20.4.2000 and 12.09.2000 respectively. Plans have been made to convene the meetings regularly on quarterly basis.

Programmes shown by Bhubaneswar DD Kendra

410. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor quality of programmes shown by Bhubaneshwar Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) if so, the steps taken to make an improvement in the programmes shown by Bhubaneshwar DD Kendra; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that programmes shown on DDK Bhubaneshwar are of good quality. Programmes of Substandard and poor quality are rejected.

(b) and (c) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that Doordarshan has been continuously taking various suitable steps to improve the presentation of its programmes. In fact, the improvement in any sphere is a continuous process and Doordarshan always adopts the latest techniques from all quarters for improvement in quality of its programmes.

Time allocation for Bengali News on DD-7

411. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of time allocated to Bengali News on DD-7 and the details thereof;

(b) the break-up of these times allocated to in-house productions and those produced by private producers;

(c) whether Government are aware that the privately produced programme is completely biased against the State Government;

(d) whether the policy of privately produced News programmes are being also telecast in other regional satellite channels;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the policy of allowing privately produced News programmes while denying State Government to run regional channels constitute a sound policy?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : (a) and (b) 2 hours 28 mts. per day. The details are as under:

1 hour—in house production

1 hour 28 mts.—Produced by private producers under Sponsored Category.

(c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that no such complaint has been received from the State Government by Doordarshan.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) The Government of West Bengal had made a proposal to start their own TV channel which could not be agreed to as it did not fall within the extant policy. As regard Doordarshan allowing privately produced programmes, decision on programmes and content are taken by Prasar Bharati on its own and the Government does not interfere in such matters.

Regularisation of floor assistants

412. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of floor assistants on casual basis in New Delhi working for more than 10 years;

(b) the steps taken by Government to regularise their services, so far;

(c) if answer to part (b) be in the negative, by when they are likely to be regularised; and

(d) whether Government have received any directive from the courts recently with regard to early regularisation of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that there are at present 145 casual Floor Assistants at Doordarshan Kendra and Central Production Centre, New Delhi working for more than 10 years.

(b) and (c) The regularisation of the casual artists of Doordarshan, including casual Floor Assistants, is being done in accordance with their position in the